

Lost Cool

.....BY LIZ AITKEN

Living in an academic community, one comes to realize the importance of original documents and their impact on scholarly research. In recognition of its potential significance to those who quest for knowledge at our University, I present this transcription of a tape recording made at a recent meeting of the secret society of the Black Bats.

This little known group of older women on campus performs a function not unlike that of our own dearly beloved Black Masquers; but beyond only the most superficial of similarities, there is no connection whatsoever between these groups (as our MB's will be the first to admit). Due to journalistic code, I cannot tell you, dear reader, from what source I received this illuminating tape, but can only sincerely hope that you can put this trifle to good use.

CAPTAIN BOSS: Hear Ye, Hear Ye! The first meeting of the Black Bats is now in session. We all know that this is the meeting where we pick next year's members, so let's do this up right.

MEMBER WOODCHUCK: Excuse me, Captain, but I think with only 15 of us, that microphone really isn't necessary.

CAPTAIN BOSS: I'm perfectly aware of that, Woodchuck, but . . . well . . . it makes me feel important. Maybe I'll just turn it off and talk into it anyway.

MEMBER SEASONS: Good idea, Captain. After all, if we lose our self-confidence, what do we have left?

CAPTAIN BOSS: Now that that's settled, we'll proceed with the business at hand. First, we'll go over the precepts on which we choose next year's membership so that we can be sure to make the right selection. Heckboy, read.

MEMBER HECKBOY: The Black Bats are to recognize outstanding individuals in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and service to the University.

CAPTAIN BOSS: Hold it. I'm sorry to interrupt you, Heckboy, but that tittering in the back is going to have to stop. Now, go on.

MEMBER HECKBOY: But that's all.

CAPTAIN BOSS: That's it? Not much to go on. Oh well, we'll just have to muddle through somehow. Member Teemon, would you please present the first applicant.

MEMBER TEEMON: As our first applicant, I present to you the record of B.K. (Columnist's note: All applicants to the Black Bats are referred to only by their initials. This is to insure complete objectivity, as no one knows who is being discussed.) B.K. has a 3.7 average and has starred in numerous plays. She has been selected to numerous honorary organizations, both scholastic and otherwise. Not a production is carried out of which she is not a member or about which she is not consulted. She is highly regarded by both her contemporaries and the faculty. This girl really sounds like a top prospect.

MEMBER CONNOR: We-e-l-l-l, I'm not so sure.

MEMBER TEEMON: What do you mean, you're not sure? This girl sounds great. She devotes hours and hours to the plays she is in and they are one of the most tangible evidences of service to the University community. Her leadership in her field is unquestionable. What's more, we've never had a member who's been in dramatics.

CAPTAIN BOSS: And for good reason, Teemon. We don't want any of those "artsy-craftsy" types in our organization, and you know what those theatre-majors are like. That could give our group a bad name and we might lose the exalted respect we now hold on campus. And another word, Teemon. I'd be careful if I were you. You've already been demoted once for your new-fangled ideas — next time you could be replaced. Frost, next applicant.

MEMBER FROST: My applicant is a very active member in the Newman club.

CAPTAIN BOSS: Go no further, Frost. Honestly, you should know that we can't consider this girl. It might look as if we were playing favorites if we should pick a member who is so closely aligned with one denomination. We don't want to look pro-Catholic, do we? I think it's time to reiterate our basic precept of middle-of-the-roadness. I can't stress this concept enough. We don't want anyone who is connected with any outspoken opinions. Leave that to the radicals. We want girls who have no enemies because in that way, we, as a group, will have no enemies. Right? Our girls must smile alot and must do everything just like everybody else. Is this clear? If so, let's move on. Woodchuck, your turn.

MEMBER WOODCHUCK: Now here is a girl I'm sure you're all going to like. She's a hold-over from last year. J.S. holds a gold key for scholarship, she

worked as news editor of the Rag, she held the job of editor for a semester, and her cumulative grade average is above a 3.5. This girl has served the University through the hundreds of hours that she devoted to making a good paper and has exhibited leadership unequalled by any other student at the University.

CAPTAIN BOSS: (yawning) I'm afraid it's no go. We have to turn her down for the same reason she was turned down last year — only one activity. You know as well as I do, Woodchuck, that these girls must be in at least three activities. After all, the more activities they have, the better they are. Right? Heckboy, I believe you have the next applicant.

MEMBER HECKBOY: This applicant, J. A., has excelled in student government. She has been extensively involved since her freshman year, held posts of distinction while serving as a senator and has been a Master at campus politics. Not a move is made without consulting her and she holds the admiration of all who have come in contact with her. She's tops in leadership and service but . . .

ALL FOURTEEN BLACK BATS: In unison) But what.

MEMBER HECKBOY: But her grade average is 1-1000 of a decimal point below our preferred average. But in this case —

CAPTAIN BOSS: Stop there, Heckboy, go no further. I know of the case to which you are referring and it makes no difference if she is majoring in pre-med and E.E. If she's too low, she's too low. After all, if our Teacher's College women can keep up their averages after going through that rugged student teaching, then she can be expected to keep up a decent average in the field of her choice. What's more, the Student Court has set a precedence for us in the area of percentage points. Next applicant please.

MEMBER SEASONS: My applicant, whose initials are Z. T., . . .

MEMBER CONNOR: Flush! I know that creep and she's just not our type. Why, she doesn't even wear hose; she wears socks, not long socks, but those short kind that went out when we were all in ninth grade. I mean she's just not the type, definitely not one of us. She's so creepy she whistles when she walks to class. Now I mean really!

CAPTAIN BOSS: Well, I guess that matter's closed. Too bad because she has excellent records, but then we all know about the blackball, don't we? Member Sissy, I think it's your turn for an applicant.

MEMBER FLUFF: Oh no, wait. I just can't stand it any longer. I have the most wonderful candidate I've just got to break in and read her application. Pretty please. Her initials are A. C. and she is just fabulous. Get a load of this record. She's assistant to the secretary of ACE, she was 4th runner-up in the Girl of the Decade contest, she's Sgt.-at-Arms of the Home Ec. Majors Club, she is the newly elected treasurer of the Tolkien Society, she's Vox Populi's public relations chairman, and she's a cashier at the Union!

MEMBER TEEMON: She really does serve the University, doesn't she.

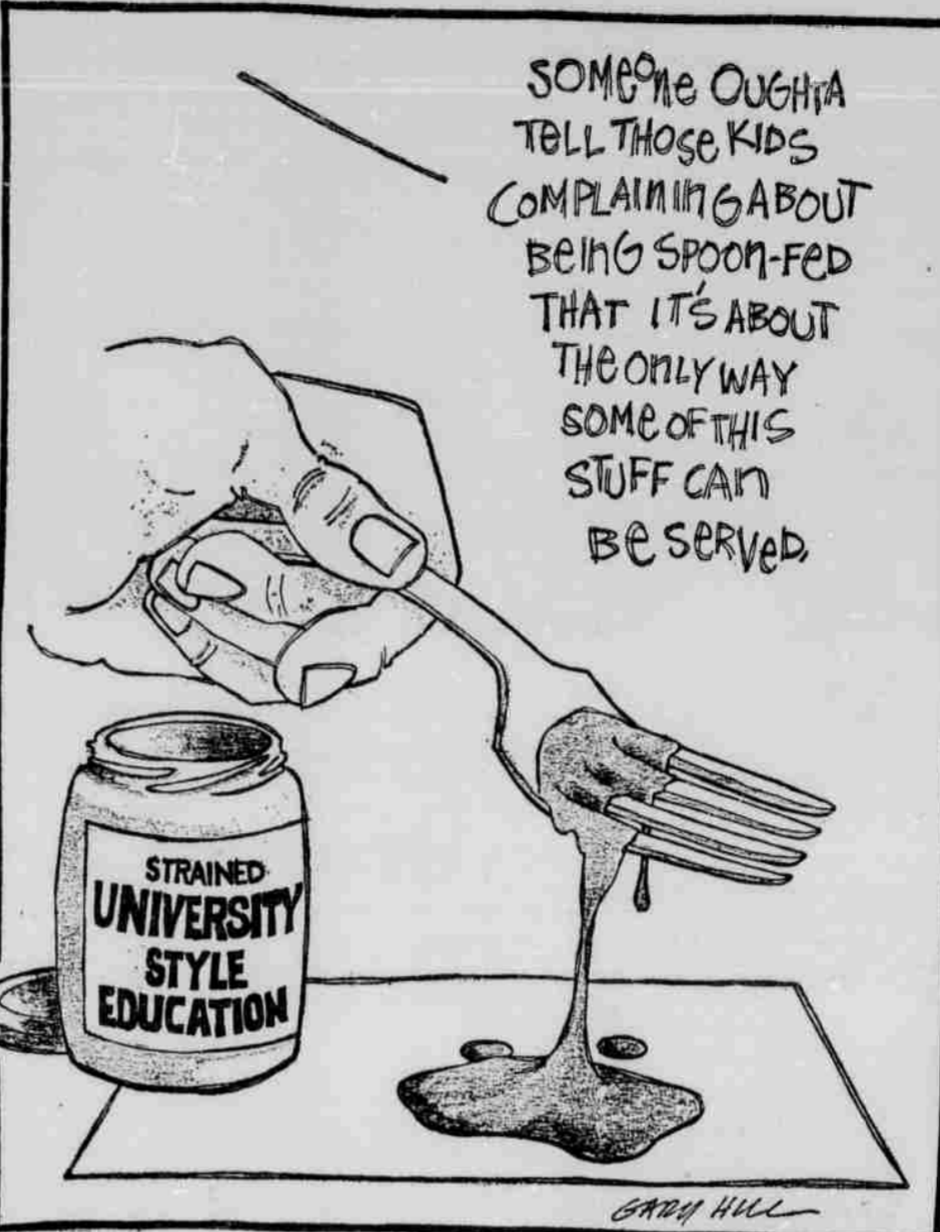
MEMBER FLUFF: Oh yes—And she has no problem with her grades. She is exactly on our required grade average, and this is with a double major in Home Ec. and Elementary Ed.

MEMBER WOODCHUCK: Captain Boss, I question this girl's membership in Vox Populi. You did specify that no future Bat could be a member of a group that held any sort of views on any matters that could be construed as controversial and Vox Populi is a campus political party.

CAPTAIN BOSS: I am fully aware of the fact that I specified no political opinions, Woodchuck, but her membership in Vox Pop has no bearing in that consideration. Carry on, Fluff.

MEMBER FLUFF: I don't have much to add but that I think she's just wonderful! She's been awfully nice to me lately and just yesterday she offered to shine my shoes and carry my books. With all that leadership coming out of her ears, I just don't know how we can pass her up. And girls — she's in Home Ec!!!! Is everyone agreed?

It is my deepest regret, dear reader, that at this very point the tape broke, but there was enough left on the reel to be able to hear the wild cheering of fifteen high-pitched voices. (To relieve any anxious minds, I think it is safe to say that A. C. has nothing to fear come Ivy Day.) I truly hope that this document, never before published and completely true, can be of help to you in any research that you might be engaged in. My personal suggestion would be to use it for a term paper in any Sociology or Behavioral Science class, preferably those dealing with child development.



TO DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM . . . By Gene Pokorny

In the first column of this series a reference was made to the writer Lillian Smith, and in this, the last, column I again turn to her writings. I do this not only because of the great degree of understanding Lillian Smith presents on man's role in life, but also because she died last September at the age of 69.

In her book "Killer of the Dream," and in her other works, she constantly voices her belief that today man is on the threshold of a truly human world, or, at least, today, more than ever before, man has a greater possibility of realizing that type of world. She feels this human world can only be won if all men join together to resist the external forces in themselves that are pushing them, driving them, toward dehumanization and destruction.

In view of her belief in the possibility of attaining this human world on could perhaps call Lillian Smith an optimist, or an idealist. If so, she would have been pleased to accept the title. Yet she was also a realist in that she realized that this human world could only be won by the individual and corporate acts of men responding to life in their everyday actions.

She realized, perhaps even more than the self-satisfying cynics of her day, that the journey toward a human world is a hard journey. It is not a journey that could be won by eloquent words or by an aloofness from the acts of men in the world. Rather the level of attainment of the truly human world depends upon the degree all men make the right decisions in their own lives. In a letter to her publisher she once wrote what could be a criterion for these individual acts that will help bring about a better world.

"You do what you must do, what seems right, what would make you despise yourself if you didn't do. Or you do it because you love somebody, or a lot of people, so much that you just have to do it. Then when things happen, you stay as steady as you can and that's that."

It is in the light of Lillian Smith's faith in the realization of the truly human world that I have tried in these columns to look at the events that have happened, and that are still happening, on our University campus this year. I have tried in this column to show that all student, faculty and administrative

decisions on our campus have got to be made in the light of whether or not they help realize the truly human world, and whether or not they develop people who will in their lives make the needed decisions to bring about this better world.

It is only with an understanding of our goal — a goal where people are esteemed above all other things — that we can really understand the significance of a Student Bill of Rights, Student Advisory Boards, housing policy, or a Free University. Only with an understanding of where we are going can we better make the decisions that must be made along the way. This, then, has been the purpose of this column — to give one view of where we are going, and what we are striving for.

As a final attempt at an understanding of where we are going, I again will refer to Lillian Smith. The passage below is from her book "The Journey" and was the last passage that was read, at her request, at her memorial service on Sept. 30, 1966.

"A century from now, men may think it strange that we so long spoke of our times as the age of anxiety; that we let the greed of ordinary men and the power-lust of dictators and demagogues get out of bounds even for a brief span of years; for parallel with the anxiety and the terror and the inquisitors and exploiters and the awful poverty and ignorance there is another way of life building firmly, steadily, swiftly on scientific facts and techniques and on man's newly discovered humility and dignity and on their concern for each other.

"I believe future generations will think of our times as the age of wholeness: for when the walls began to fall; when the fragments began to be related to each other; when men learned finally to esteem tenderness and reason and awareness and the world which set him apart from

ever from other living creatures: when he learned to realize his brokenness and his great talent for creating ties that bind him together again; when he learned to accept his own childhood and in the acceptance to become capable of maturity; when he began to realize his infinite possibilities even as he sees more clearly his limitations; when he began to see that sameness and normality are not relevant to human beings but to machines and animals; when he learned never to let any power or dictator cut his ties to the great reservoir of knowledge and wisdom without which he would quickly lose his human status; when he learned to live a bit more comfortably with time and space; when he learned to accept his need of God and the law that he cannot see Him, to accept his need of his fellow men and the law that he cannot use them, either; when he learned that "what is impenetrable to us really exists," and ways there will be need of the dream, the belief, the wonder, the faith.

"To believe in something not yet proved and to underwrite it with our lives; it is the only way we can leave the future open. Man, surrounded by facts, permitting himself no surmise, no intuitive flash, no great hypothesis, no risk is in a locked cell. Ignorance cannot seal the mind and imagination more surely. To find the point where hypothesis and fact meet; the delicate equilibrium between dream and reality; the place where fantasy and earthy things are metamorphosed into a work of art; the hour when faith in the future becomes knowledge of the past; to lay down one's powers for others in need; to shake off the old ordeal and get ready for the new; to question, knowing that never can the full answer be found; to accept uncertainties quietly, even our incomplete knowledge of God: THIS IS WHAT MAN'S JOURNEY IS ABOUT, I THINK."

Daily Nebraskan

Vol. 90, No. 48 Dec. 12, 1966
 Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, Neb.
 Member Associated Collegiate Press, National Advertising Service, Incorporated, Published at Room 51 Nebraska Union, Lincoln, Neb., 68518.
EDITORIAL STAFF
 Editor Wayne Kruescher; Managing Editor Lois Quinnet; News Editor Jan Udd; Night News Editor Bill Minier; Sports Editor Bob Flannick; Senior Staff Writers, Julie Morris, Randy Irey, Tom Victor, Nancy Hendrickson; Junior Staff Writers, Cheryl Tritt, Cheryl Dunlap, John Fyaz, Bob Holstrom; News Assistant Eileen Wirth; Photographers Tom Rubin, Howard Kastner; Copy Editors, Peg Bennett, Barb Robertson, Jane Ross, Bruce Giles.
BUSINESS STAFF
 Business Manager Bob Ginn; National Advertising Manager Dwight Clark; Local Advertising Manager Charles Baxter; Classified Advertising Manager, Ean Ann Ginn, Mary Jo McDonnell; Secretary, Linda LaZa; Business Assistant, Jerry Wolfe, Jim Walters, Chuck Salem, Rusty Fuller, Gene Friendt, Brian Hale, Mike Eyster; Subscription Manager Jim Banta; Circulation Manager Lynn Rathbone; Circulation Assistant Gary Meyer.

Campus Opinion

Basis For Student Involvement

Dear Editor:
 The article in Wednesday's Daily Nebraskan describing the Bill of Rights discussion involving Student Affairs staff members and ASUN representatives was inaccurate at one important point.

I am referring specifically to the section regarding the possible use of legal opinion to define the limits of University authority over its students. The statements as reported were a conflation of comments made by two discussants.

The comment was offered that a legal opinion could be obtained from the University attorneys defining the limits of the University's authority over its students. It was pointed out, however, that such an opinion probably wouldn't result in a very pleasing outcome in that the courts have consistently ruled that colleges and universities have broad latitude in what they can require of students.

These comments were offered as information and were not intended to flout the authority of the University or to intimidate students.

Although legally the University may have more authority over its students than some might wish, it does not necessarily follow that the University must operate in an authoritarian manner. Nor would such legal position deny students the opportunity to openly question any aspect of the institution they feel are ineffective or unfair. If legal concepts do not provide a basis for active student involvement, certainly educational objectives do.

Russell H. Brown
 Office of Student Affairs

Student Justice Is Confusing

Dear Editor:
 If the article about the Student Tribunal in last Friday's edition was factual, then student justice at Nebraska is certainly in a confused state.

To begin with, the charter of the Tribunal states clearly that it is to serve as a court. Yet Mr. Martin states just as unequivocally that it is not a court but rather a place where a student goes to seek help "if he desires."

I am not against helping students, and if the members of the Tribunal wish to do the same they can write their rules of procedure accordingly. But in that case shouldn't their work be kept confidential? Should they be passing judgments and sentences on to the Office of Student Affairs? No respectable priest would hear a confession from one of his flock, give absolution, and then run with the evidence to the local constable.

There are, on the other hand, those who feel that the Tribunal should revert to its role as a court and judge not "why the student acted in the manner he did," nor whether he has "learned his lesson," but whether he is in fact guilty of a violation. (Naturally before this can be done there must be a set of rules to violate, I personally feel that such a code is long overdue.) Then whether the student arrives with a chip on his shoulder, his hat in his hand, or his tongue in his cheek he could and should receive all the benefits of due process in the effort to determine his guilt. Only in a context such as this does it make sense for the Tribunal to hand down a judgment and a sentence.

Richard E. Gilbert
 Associate Professor
 Dept. of Chem. Engr.

'Promiscuous' Has Two Meanings

Dear Editor:
 It has occurred to me that during Thursday's Hyde Park gathering, some of the audience may have (in fact certainly had) misinterpreted my usage of the word "promiscuous." Upon recalling my discussion of Miss Brenda Lyle's column-platitudes regarding the plight of the female Afro-American on this campus, I find it necessary to clarify the nature in which the term was used.

I realize now that there are those who have been exposed to only one definition of the word "promiscuous" or those who refuse to see (for some misunderstood reason or another) something other than a sexual connotation applied to it.

To those people I call their attention to "Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language." Webster gives two definitions of the word "promiscuous."

First, he defines it as consisting of different elements mixed together or mingled without sorting or discrimination. Second, he defines it as that which is "characterized by a lack of discrimination;" specifically, engaging in sexual intercourse indiscriminately or with many partners.

In my discussion there were no sexual references intended and I offer my apologies if any of my statements were so received. But for those of you who did associate a sexual reference have told me and others a little bit about your thinking and lack of understanding.

Bob Pickens

China's Role Important?

Dear Editor:
 Howard Moffett of the Collegiate Press Service in Saigon reports (Daily Nebraskan, Dec. 2) that the people of Vietnam and of Southeast Asia are quite convinced that the primary force to contend with in the Vietnam war is China. Since who actually wields the power is at times unknown, the hitherto authoritative emphasis often given by the press to the Viet Cong has been occasionally misplaced if not misleading.

A question that ought to intrigue us today is why is it that world leaders make no mention of inviting Mao's representatives when they talk about bringing the warring parties to the conference table? Has the de-emphasizing of China's role by the press influenced their judgment unduly? Perhaps they are apprehensive least Mao's thought prevail.

Without China's participating there would be no war in Vietnam (if what Mr. Moffett says is acceptable). The logical corollary to this is that without China's consent the declaration of a truce would also be well-nigh impossible. But who's to bell the cat?

The only benefit acquired by keeping the Republic of China out of the United Nations has been to let it feel increasingly isolated. Whether this ultimately leads to some rash course of action with devastating consequences would be better left to the speculations of the "China watchers."

Non-China Watcher